

## SMART YIELD

Income Fund

Finding Efficient Frontiers

INVEST/STAY CONNECTED

INITIAL REPORT February 27, 2022

LAST UPDATED March 13, 2022

THE CHILDREN'S  
PLACE

**THE CHILDREN'S PLACE** Common shares \$51.53 Recommendation: Hold / Price Target:\$70

[The Children's Place](#) (PLCE) is a children's clothing retailer that designs, licenses, wholesales, and retails its' value priced apparel under the brands: The Children's Place, Place, Baby Place, Gymboree, and Sugar & Jade. The company has long had a reputation as a mall retailer, but over the last few years has successfully executed a digital transformation. The effort has *increased* merchandise margins, lowered occupancy expenses, and produced stronger earnings. For the year ending January 29, 2022 (fiscal 2021) operating margin increased to 15.1% from 6% in 2019 and sales increased 2% over 2019 despite having 28% fewer stores. CEO Jane Elfers commented: "We delivered record breaking results in 2021 due to our accelerated structural reset to a digital first company that has taken place since the start of the pandemic." Earnings also increased to \$12.59 in 2021 from \$4.68 in 2019. So, we believe that the strategy is working. Share count was also reduced below 14 million (market cap < \$725) leaving the company with \$257 million remaining on its' share repurchase plan. However, the 2022 year is now expected to be in general much better than 2019 but not as good as 2021.

Management indicated that supply chain and other headwinds would persist into the first quarter and also cited the more difficult comparison due to "lapping the unprecedented government stimulus," the covid resurgence and effects of higher gas prices on the Company's customer. Stating: "We believe that the first quarter will be our toughest quarterly compare." Management feels that headwinds will be reduced throughout the year by initiatives and believes that 2022 revenue will advance by 1% and EPS will be double digits.

Our hold recommendation is based on the lowered short-term outlook. The price target is 7 X our 2022 earnings forecast and an enterprise value of 5 X our 2023 EBITDA projection.

[PLCE chart 2020 through February 2022](#)

### [Recent Presentation](#)

**Company Description:** The Children's Place, Inc. is the largest pure-play children's specialty apparel retailer in North America. We design, contract to manufacture, sell at retail and wholesale, and license to sell trend right, high quality children's apparel, footwear, and accessories predominately at value prices, under the proprietary "The Children's Place", "Place", "Baby Place", and "Gymboree" brand names.



## BROXTON CAPITAL ADVISORS

## The Children's Place as of 1/29/2022

Sunday, March 13, 2022

share price (PLCE)

\$51.53

### PROJECTIONS IN MM

2021 2022 2023

#### Income Statement

Revenue	\$1,915	\$1,935	\$2,070
Gross Profit	\$747	\$706	\$756
Operating Income	\$276	\$186	\$231
Pre-Tax Income	\$257	\$178	\$221
Net Income	\$187	\$132	\$163
EPS	\$12.59	\$10.14	\$12.55

EBITDA	\$334	\$236	\$276
Interest	\$19	\$8	\$10
Capitalized Expense	\$60	\$55	\$55
Cash Flow	\$55	\$127	\$153
Equity Dividends	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cash Flow Dividend Coverage	NA	NA	NA
Retained Cash Flow	\$55	\$127	\$153
Retained Cash Flow Sum	\$55	\$182	\$335
Revenue Growth	26%	1%	7%

#### Valuations

Cash Flow Yield Vs. Equity	7.2%	16.5%	20.0%
EV/EBITDA	2.97	4.20	3.60
P.E Ratio	4.09	5.08	4.10
Enterprise Value	\$991		
Total Debt	\$225		
Equity Market Cap	\$766	\$766	\$766

#### Debt Ratios

EBITDA/Interest Coverage ratio	17.94	29.51	27.55
Debt/EBITDA	0.67	0.95	0.82

#### Liquidity

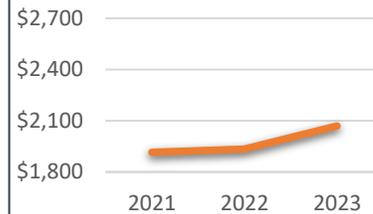
Cash	\$67		
Borrowing Availability est.	\$100	+	
Current Assets	\$581		
Current Liabilities	\$591		
Quick Ratio	0.98		

#### Debt

Borrowings	\$225
Total	\$225

#### NOTES:

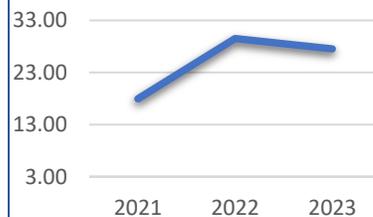
#### Revenue Projection



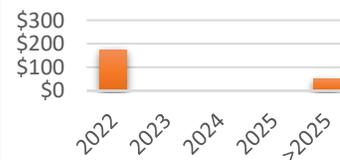
#### EPS Projection



#### EBITDA / Int. Coverage



#### Debt Amortization Schedule



**Disclosures**

Price target reduced from 98 to 70 and rating reduced from buy to hold on March 13. Previous reports are available upon request. Smart Yield Fund targets a mix of different security classes that contain the risk of loss. Investors should carefully consider the Fund's investment objectives and risk factors before investing. Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. Investors should consider the loss of principle and targeted returns are not guaranteed. Individual investors in Smart Yield are generally required to be accredited investors. Smart Yield is a fund operated through individual accounts creating the composite. Smart Yield Fund is a new product with an inception date of September 30, 2020, and as such does not have historical data. Asset Mix Projections on page 2 and 6, Smart Yield Portfolio Metrics on page 5 are estimated or targets of the fund. Asset class mix and targets may change based on the direction of the managers. Portfolio allocation projected annual return and beta assumption for each asset class on pages 7-10 are estimated. Beta for the fund and each asset class is estimated versus the S&P 500. The average beta for the entire fund is projected to be .32. Beta is a measure of the fund's volatility in relation to S&P 500 Index. This index has a beta of 1.0. The fund targets a total gross return before fees and expenses of 9.24%. The fund projects a blended return based on income securities and capital gains. Smart Yield attempts to continuously improve the value of investment portfolios by investing in corporate bonds, convertible bonds, other types of bonds (investment grade and sub-investment grade, [which may also have limited liquidity]), dividend paying equities, non-dividend paying equities, ETFs, including leveraged ETFs, and other securities. Fixed income risks include interest-rate and credit risk. Typically, when interest rates rise, there is a corresponding decline in bond values. 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